



Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004 – H.R. 2657

SUMMARY

The legislative appropriations bill reported to the House on 1 July 2003 (H.R. 2657; H.Rept. 108-186) provides new budget authority equal to the 302(b) suballocation for the Legislative subcommittee for all items other than the Senate. Consistent with a long-standing practice – under which each chamber of Congress determines its own housekeeping

requirements, and the other concurs without change – appropriations for the Senate are not included in the bill as reported to the House. The bill is consistent with the House Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004 (H.Con.Res. 95). It does not violate provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

As reported, H.R. 2657 provides \$2.7 billion in new budget authority [BA] and \$2.859 billion in outlays for 2004 – an increase of \$84 million in BA and \$251 million in outlays from fiscal year 2003 (see Table 1 below). The growth in outlays results from BA enacted in prior years.

Budget authority in the bill increases by 3.2 percent from the previous year, and is \$292 million below amounts included in the President's budget – which by law reflect amounts requested by the originating agencies, such as the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the House and Senate themselves. Hence this change is a reduction from what the agencies themselves requested.

As shown in the chart on the next page, assuming enactment of a bill based on the 302(b) allocation (including Senate spending), legislative spending will have increased an average of 9.0 percent a year in 2000-04, higher than discretionary spending as a whole. Spending for the House itself (excluding the Senate, joint items, and support agencies) has grown by an average of 7.4 percent each year over the same period, slightly below the growth rate of discretionary spending as a whole.

The bill does not contain emergency-designated new budget authority, and does not include rescissions of previously enacted budget authority.

Table 1: Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill ^a
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2003 Spending ^b	Administration 2004 ^c	302 (b) for 2004	Bill
Budget Authority	2,616	2,992	2,700	2,700
Outlays	2,608	3,066	2,880	2,859

^a These numbers do not include any funds for the Senate, including Senate items under the Architect of the Capitol.

^b Does not include \$125 million in BA and \$16 million in outlays included in the fiscal year 2003 Iraq conflict supplemental (Public Law 108-11).

^c By law, budget requests for the legislative branch are transmitted to the Congress by the Office of Management and Budget and the President without change in the amounts submitted by the originating agency.

(continued on reverse side)

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

The bill complies with sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Budget Act. The first of these prohibits consideration of bills in excess of a subcommittee's 302(b) allocation for new budget authority. The second, section 311(a), prohibits consideration of legislation exceeding the aggregate levels of BA and outlays established in the budget resolution. The

\$2.7 billion in new discretionary BA is the same as the 302(b) allocation for the subcommittee on Legislative, excluding Senate items; outlays are \$21million less than the allocation. Because no appropriations bills for fiscal year 2004 have been enacted, there is ample room under the BA ceiling and hence the bill would not violate section 311(a).

Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the Legislative Appropriations Bill
(in millions of dollars)

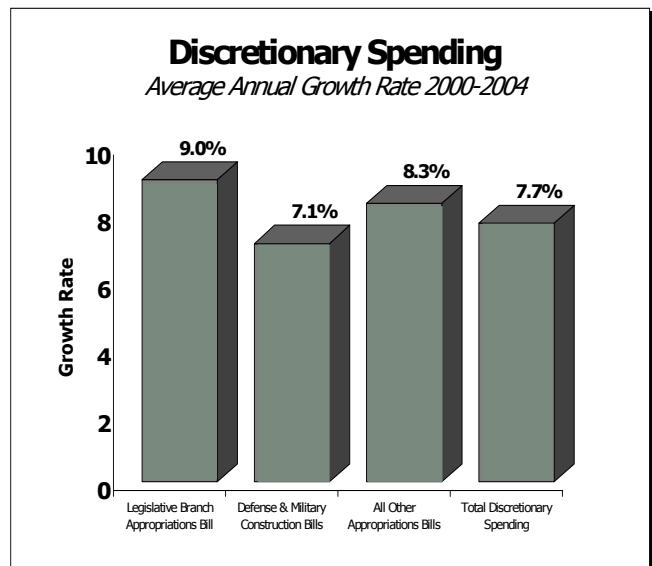
	2003 Budget Authority ^a	2003 Outlays ^a	2004 Budget Authority	2004 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
House of Representatives	952	946	1,014	1,017	62	71
Library of Congress	497	479	524	551	27	72
General Accounting Office	448	429	459	459	11	30
Architect of the Capitol	324	343	290	385	-34	42
Capitol Police	203	226	212	248	9	22
Government Printing Office	119	110	130	124	11	14
Congressional Budget Office	32	32	34	34	2	2
Other	41	43	37	41	-4	-2
Total	2,616	2,608	2,700	2,859	84	251

^a Does not include \$125 million in BA and \$16 million in outlays included in the fiscal year 2003 Iraq conflict supplemental (Public Law 108-11).

DISCUSSION

The bill, as reported, is \$84 million more than 2003 spending (see Table 2 above), and is \$292 million less than the original agency requests. Items of note include:

- *Architect of the Capitol* - \$34 million: The bill reduces spending below 2003 largely for Capitol Police buildings (\$21 million), as requested by the agency. The bill also provides \$147 million less than requested for the following: alternate computer facility (\$61 million); Capitol buildings (\$29 million); power plant (\$20 million); library buildings and grounds (\$12 million); House buildings (\$12 million); long-term projects (\$12 million); and general administration (\$1 million).
- *Capitol Police* \$9 million: The bill increases spending over 2003 for salaries (\$15 million), and partly offsets it with a reduction in general expenses (\$6 million). It provides \$78 million less than the request for salaries (\$28 million) and general expenses (\$50 million).



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